

David. Anne. John. etc.

Jan 1915

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSEHOLD SCIENCE

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January 20, 1915.

President Falconer

University of Toronto.

Dear Mr. President,

I am sorry to trouble you further about the telephones in our building, but the present arrangement is not satisfactory. We still feel there are strong reasons in favor of our original proposal - an extension to Dr. Johnston's room from telephone N.6300, with a buzzer - but if this arrangement is not to be made, I think it wise, in the hope of clearing up some of the difficulties, to make some explanations and offer a suggestion.

Late in November, I heard, indirectly, that an extension for Dr. Johnston was to be connected with telephone N.6301 (the Household Science not the Building telephone) and I telephoned to Mr. Campbell and explained to him the reasons why the connection should be made with N.6300 instead of with N.6301. On Nov. 30th, I wrote to Mr. Campbell stating some of these reasons and he told me he would take the letter to the Board of Governors, however in the meantime the connection had been made with N.6301.

As I heard nothing further from Mr. Campbell, Miss Benson and I went to see you about the middle of December and we understood you to say that the necessary changes would be made, and that orders to that effect had already been given. Evidently there was some misunderstanding for nothing has yet been done to overcome the difficulty. A buzzer was put in downstairs, but that does not help as long as the connections remain as at present. It becomes more and more unsatisfactory and annoying to be, at times, constantly interrupted by the telephone bell on my desk

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ringing for Dr. Johnston. (It is quite evident that Dr. Johnston has a great many telephone calls.) Again sometimes I want to use the telephone, or an order has to be given in and we cannot get the telephone. One morning there was an important telephone call for me and five different times I left my work in another room, only to find each time that Dr. Johnston was using the telephone. With the present arrangement he uses both telephones. I mention these few things so that you may have some idea of the inconvenience and waste of time the present arrangement means.

If it were not that a telephone is necessary for the efficient carrying on of our work, I would suggest that the Household Science telephone be taken out and given to Dr. Johnston, but as it would seriously interfere with our work and mean a great waste of time and energy to not have a telephone on the second floor, I suggest that the Household Science telephone be connected with the Building telephone N.6300 and a buzzer put in for it, and N.6301 be given to Dr. Johnston. (A buzzer on the second floor is possible only because of the office assistant, during the summer a bell would be necessary.) This arrangement will entail considerable inconvenience, still I feel sure it would be much more satisfactory than the way things are at present. The inconvenience would be greatly lessened if our 'house' telephones were available. Mrs. Treble's original plan was a system of intercommunicating house telephones, but with the prospect of being connected with a University switch-board, a change was made.

If changes, in the telephone arrangements that affect this department, are to be made, may I ask that we may know about them in good time. I feel that if we had known about these telephone connections long enough before to consider the matter and discuss possibilities, the present

ADDRESS REPLY TO
LILLIAN MASSEY BUILDING,
QUEEN'S PARK, TORONTO.

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difficulties might have been avoided.

Hoping it will be possible to make an arrangement so that our
work will not be interfered with, I am

Yours sincerely

Annie L. Laird

January 21st, 1915

Miss Laird,

Household Science Building.

Dear Miss Laird:

I have just seen the Superintendent about your letter, which seems to me to open up a very good prospect for getting the difficulties connected with the telephone in the Household Science Building cleared out of the way. I quite recognise that it must be often very annoying to you to have Dr. Johnston speaking when you want to use your telephone. I know from what he has told me that he himself regrets any such interference, though he says that he has tried to atone for it in some ways at times by taking messages that may have come when you were absent. However, if we can so arrange that your own telephone is to serve you whenever you want it, and that your office assistant can take messages for you when you are absent, I am sure that this will be a good solution for the rest of the winter.

Mr. Campbell is sending the electrician up this morning to see whether he can arrange for a buzzer, and have the cell ring in your own room when your assistant would not be in the office to use the buzzer. I hope that he may be able to make these arrangements.

Yours sincerely,

President.

